

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CAR/G-J:DCNORTON

APPROVED BY: ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

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R 160036Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AID EPD NCAD NEW CUMB PA

UNCLAS STATE 166860

FOL GEORGETOWN 1078 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JULY 10; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1078

FOR ARA/CAR NORTON AND MACARY

.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GY

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S REQUEST FOR HEAVY LIFT HELICOPTERS
FROM EXPROP

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0946 (AIDAC) (B) AID EPD NCAD MSG
(FSB 71) 2 JULY

1. I CONVEYED REPLY ON CH-54 AND CH47A HELICOPTERS TO PRIMIN
AT JULY 4 RECEPTION. HE REQUESTED FURTHER DATA ON CH-47A.
2. AT JULY 5 SOCIAL FUNCTION I HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH LARRY
GILLESPIE, AMCIT
CONTRACTED RECENTLY BY GOG AS PM'S HELICOPTER
PILOT (FLYING 2 ALOUETTES PURCHASED FROM FRANCE). GILLESPIE IS
U.S. ARMY RESERVE PILOT WITH 2500 HOURS IN HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING
FULL TOUR IN VIETNAM. HIS CONTRACT IS FOR MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR
AND COVERS DEVELOPMENT OF COMPLETE HELICOPTER SERVICE, INCLUDING
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ADVICE ON FUTURE PURCHASES, PILOT TRAINING, ETC.

3. BURNHAM HAD INFORMED GILLESPIE OF CONTENT MY LETTER JUNE 20 (COPY TO NORTON) AND OUR JULY 4 CONVERSATION. GILLESPIE CAME TO EMBASSY JULY 10 TO DISCUSS APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS TO TRY TO MEET GOG REQUIREMENTS FOR HELICOPTERS. GILLESPIE BELIEVES GOG SHOULD PROCEED DELIBERATELY BY STAGES TOWARD ACQUISITION OF COMPLEX, HIGH-COST, MACHINES SIMILAR TO CH47A. HE HAS MADE PRELIMINARY STUDY WITH MINISTRY OF WORKS ON LIFT REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD TO MAZARUNI HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, AND HE ESTIMATES HELICOPTERS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO LIFT APPROXIMATELY 250,000 LBS/MO JUST IN GENERAL SUPPLIES AND SPARES.

4. GILLESPIE SUGGESTS, AND I CONCUR, THAT EMBASSY OBTAIN VIA STATE/AID FOLLOWING DATA ON BOTH CH-47A (WITH 16,000 LB SLING CAP) AND BELL HUEY UH-1H (PREFERABLY SERIES D):

- A) AVAILABILITY FROM EXPROP
- B) ACQUISITION COST
- C) REHABILITATION COST (ESTIMATE) AND TIME REQUIRED
- D) ESTIMATE OF COSTS PER FLYING HOUR (EITHER DOD FIGURES OR MFR'S DATA).

5. GILLESPIE DOES NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE OF ABSENCE FAA CERTIFICATION ON CH-47A, ASSUMING AIRCRAFT WOULD ONLY BE OPERATED BY GOG FOR CARRYING CARGO AND POSSIBLY GOG WORKERS, AND THAT GOG WOULD NOT BE SEEKING INSURANCE COVERAGE. WOULD THIS AFFECT GILLESPIE'S OWN INSURANCE COVERAGE? KREBS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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